

Vincenzo Gallo
168 Upper State Street
North Haven, CT 06473

March 3, 2016

Re: **Raised Bill No. 5471**, AN ACT CONCERNING UNUSED TUITION AND FEE
WAIVERS AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND FAMILY OF
VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARD.

Dear Chairmen Flexer and Hennessey, Ranking Members Martin and Yaccarino, and
distinguished members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee:

This correspondence is in regards to the support of Raised Bill No. 5471, *An Act Concerning Unused Tuition and Fee Waivers for Family of Veterans and Members of the Connecticut National Guard*. As a veteran and prior beneficiary of the Tuition Waiver at Public Institutions of Higher Education, I can attest to its positive impact on my life and the life of other National Guard members. I attended the University of Connecticut on a tuition waiver and later law school before being federally activated during Operation Enduring Freedom. Many members, as did I, joined to serve our country, and in the process, better themselves through educational resources that the military could offer. However, some members had either already started their higher education prior to enlistment or chose not to pursue higher education due to other job opportunities that arose, therefore leaving earned benefits by the wayside.

Some may consider this as an era when the American dream is more difficult to achieve than in the past and opportunities are not as common. I believe this Bill can be an opportunity to alleviate some financial burdens on a veteran's family. It is a Bill that would add no extra cost, as it was a benefit that had been accounted for by the veteran that earned it and never utilized it for themselves. A veteran earned this benefit and now, with this Bill, he can pass down to his family what he had worked hard to earn. Please support Raised Bill No. 5471.

Sincerely and Respectfully,


Vincenzo Gallo